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# Finding Your Zen: Mindfulness in the Classroom

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## EDUCATION

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### **Georgia State University College of Education, Atlanta, GA**

M.Ed., Behavioral and Learning Disabilities, May 2016

EdD, Educational Leadership, In Progress

**Honors:** Kappa Delta Phi International Honor Society for Educators; Reading Endorsement

### **Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA**

Juris Doctor Degree, May 2001

**Activities:** Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic; Dean's Fellow; Project Open Hand; Urban Debate League; Emory Gay and Lesbian Advocates (EGALA) President.

**Honors:** Order of the Advocates; Dean's Outstanding Public Interest Award; Georgia Civil Justice Foundation Scholar; Commendation for Outstanding Performance: Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques; Lamar Inn of American Courts; Moot Court Society; Semi-Finalist, Fall 1999 Moot Court Inter-school Competition; Top 10% Oralist: LWRAP Appellate Oral Argument Competition, Spring 1999; Human Rights Campaign Scholarship.

### **Emory University, Atlanta, GA**

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, cum laude, May 1998

**Activities:** Barkley Forum Debate Team; Theater Emory; Ad Hoc Musical Theater Company; Speakers Bureau; AID Atlanta; Urban Debate League Program; Freshman Seminar Leader; Project Open Hand; Residence Hall Advisor (RA); Arts for AIDS Volunteer; NYAC (National Youth Advocacy Coalition) presenter.

**Honors:** Dean's List 8 out of 8 semesters; ODK National Leadership Honor Society; Alpha Psi Omega National Theater Honor Society; Phi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society; Honors Thesis Program; Outstanding First Year Debater; GLOBE scholarship winner.

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Leadership/Management**

#### **Hillside Conant School, Atlanta, GA**

*Special Education Lead Instructor, Math Department Chair, 6-12 Mathematics Instructor, Student Teacher*

January 2014-Present

- Manage a team of 10 educators related to special education and mathematics matters in a residential treatment facility for children with severe emotional and behavioral issues.
- Liaison with Atlanta Public Schools related to compliance issues under federal and state special education laws.
- Participate in audits and compliance reviews related to student records with the Georgia Department of Education, Atlanta Public Schools and other regulatory/compliance agencies.
- Provide monthly professional development seminars related to special education/mathematics.
- Serve as a mentor to new teachers and aid seasoned teachers in special education/mathematics content area.
- Provide job coaching to students using task analysis and applied behavioral programming strategies.

- Collaborate with students, parents, special education teachers, para educators, and administrators to help students prepare to become independently functioning adults.
- Lead team special education meetings and math department meetings.
- Adapt middle and high school curriculum to teach Mathematics and Science to students with emotional and behavioral disabilities in an in-patient psychiatric treatment facility
- Develop and manage Individual Education Plans (“IEP”) and 504 Plans for students with disabilities
- Collaborate with general education teachers to ensure that materials taught align with Common Core Standards
- Work with students individually and in groups to promote full academic functioning
- Lead group therapy sessions designed to teach students Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (“DBT”) skills
- Assist with the implementation and training of teachers to use the IEP Online Technology to streamline the review process.

**LabMD, Inc., Atlanta, GA**

*Chief Compliance Officer, General Counsel, February 2010-November 2014*

**Equifax, Inc., Atlanta, GA**

*Attorney, December 2009- July 2010*

- Managed outside counsel and litigation matters and review all invoices and expenses from outside counsel.
- Advised client on compliance issues with various governmental agencies, including the Federal Trade Commission, the Georgia Department of Human Resources, OSHA, Georgia Department of Labor and U.S. Department of Labor.
- Responded to human resource and employment issues within the organization.
- Reviewed company policies/procedures to determine risk exposure, monitor compliance issues and ensure that the company complies with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- Conducted annual compliance audits under federal, state and local law.
- Successfully secured renewal of GSA contract for multiple entities within the corporation.
- Trained and managed paralegal, including education, regarding unique legal and business challenges of operating a national medical laboratory.
- Counseled sales representatives, contract administrators and senior management on federal contracts and opportunities with government organizations.
- Responded to requests for proposals and requests for information for government opportunities and prepare teaming agreements.
- Worked with Equifax lobbyists to draft legislation and suggest rules/regulations for various federal agencies.
- Drafted, reviewed, commented and negotiated operating agreements, complex contracts, service provider agreements, independent contractor agreements, non-disclosure agreements, termination agreements, settlement agreements and other complex agreements.
- First Chaired complex litigation matters in Federal and State Court, brief and argue issues before Georgia Appellate Courts and Federal Appellate Courts (5<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit).

**Balch & Bingham, LLP, Atlanta, GA**

*Partner, August 2006-March 2009*

**Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., Atlanta, GA**

*Senior Attorney, July 2004-August 2006.*

**Smith Gambrell Russell, LLP, Atlanta, GA**

*Associate, May 2000-July 2004.*

- Lobbied at the state and local level regarding real estate matters and necessary legislative changes to assist commercial real estate clients in successfully completing for-profit ventures.
- Researched federal, state and local bid laws for national waste hauling company and secured federal contracts for the collection of solid waste for a federal agency.
- Prepared RFPs for the collection of solid waste from state and local governments.

- Reviewed and counseled clients on zoning compliance issues and appeared at public hearings before local governments related to zoning/land use issues.
- Reviewed agreements from third party providers for major health care system in Florida and determined compliance with federal regulations, including HIPPA and medicare/medicaid.
- Advised local governments on code revisions.
- Analyzed title reports and surveys for complex real estate transactions and closed multiple commercial real estate transactions in excess of \$ 5,000,000.00.
- Drafted, reviewed and negotiated complex contracts, service delivery strategy agreements, franchise agreements, asset-purchase agreements and other corporate/securities documents.
- Drafted and prepared articles of incorporation, corporate charters, by-laws, minutes, resolutions and other corporate documents.

### **Research/Education**

**Dr. Natsu Saito**, Georgia State University School of Law, Atlanta, GA

*Graduate Research Assistant*, March 2016-Present

- Assist in the editing publications (books, journal articles, classroom instructional materials) related to international law and post-colonial settler theory.
- Research legal issues and assist in the development of legal problems for moot court competition.
- Prepare extensive manuscripts for judges to use in analyzing legal issues.
- Consider legal issues related to international law and first amendment rights.

**Dr. Dashaunda Patterson**, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

*Graduate Research Assistant*, August 2015-December 2015

- Research and test innovative technological solutions for graduate school classes in the Behavioral and Learning Disabilities Program.
- Assist in the development and implementation of an interactive interface for a graduate school class related to characteristics of disabilities.
- Provide resources for the improvement of Dr. Patterson's graduate level classes.
- Collaborate with Dr. Patterson regarding the existing curriculum and effective strategies to improve classroom instruction.

**FixMySwim**, Atlanta, GA

*Adaptive Swim Coach*, July 2012-Present

- Develop adaptive swim program for children with autism, physical disabilities, behavioral issues and other disabilities.
- Provide one-on-one swim instruction for children with special needs.
- Educate FixMySwim instructors regarding effective techniques for the education of students with special needs.
- Prepare students for Special Olympics local, regional and national competitions.
- Speak at local and regional seminars regarding effective adaptive swimming techniques for students with special needs.

**Center for Leadership in Disability**, Georgia State University

*Graduate Research Assistant*, September 2013-May 2014

- Prepared IRB submissions for members of the Center for various research projects throughout the GSU campus and greater communities.
- Assisted with development of research project related to bullying of individuals with hearing loss and presented materials at annual Center conference for Georgia educators and policy makers.
- Collaborated with leadership committee members to plan and coordinate an annual conference with over 500 attendees at GSU.

- Conducted extensive literature review for research projects conducted by faculty.
- Coded and reviewed data for projects conducted by various faculty members.
- Researched autism legislation at the Center for Disease Control to determine impact of autism insurance laws on rates of autism across the United States.

### **The Paideia School, Atlanta, GA**

*Tutor, February 2014-May 2014*

- Worked with two English Language Learners (ELL) to develop effective strategies to master English and mathematics in a private school.
- Facilitated meetings between parents, students and school personnel regarding progress monitoring.
- Assisted students in the development and implementation of effective organizational skills.
- Increased reading fluency and mathematics fluency for two ELL students.

### **COMMITTEES/MEMBERSHIPS**

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- Cold Case Project – Administrative Office of the Courts of Georgia/Georgia Office of the Child Advocate – 2014-Present
- Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – Advisory Board – 2000-Present
- Stonewall Bar Association – 2001-2012
- OutLaw – Alumni Advisory Board – 2008-2012
- State Bar of Georgia Diversity Committee – Officer – 2008-2009
- City of Atlanta Zoning Ordinance Review and Rewriting Committee – 2005-2008
- Stakeholder's Group – Mayor Shirley Franklin's Committee to review and rewrite the City of Atlanta permitting process – 2005 – 2008

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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- Special Olympics – 2008-Present
- Emory University School of Law Mentor Program – 2001-Present
- Kids in Need of Dreams (Truancy Intervention Project) – 2001-2010
- OurSong – Board of Director's Member at Large – 2004-2008

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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- Yoga for Regulation of Emotions – Georgia Association for Positive Behavioral Support Annual Conference – 2015
- EdTalk – Yoga for Students With Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities – KDP Annual Conference – 2015
- Keynote Speaker – Kappa Delta Phi International Honor Society for Educators Induction Ceremony – 2015
- Bullying and Children with Hearing Loss – Georgia Association for Positive Behavior Support Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA – 2013
- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- Out in the Workplace – Emory University – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009
- The Balancing Act – A Panel Discussion – The Large Urban Caucus of the Urban Land Institute – 2006
- Legal Aspects Of Condominium, Planned Unit Developments And Mixed-Use Communities – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006
- Problem Solving For Condominium And Homeowners' Associations – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Urban Development And Redevelopment – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- What to Know About the Development of Regional Impact Process – 2005

- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007
- Municipal Code Violations: A Slap On The Wrist vs. Off With Their Heads – Land Use Seminar – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2003
- The Development of Regional Impact Process as it Applies to ARC and GRTA – State Bar of Georgia Real Property Section Annual Meeting – 2003
- Understanding the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Process – Professional Educational Services, Inc. – 2002
- DRI Reviews – Land Use 101 – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2002
- Adoption and Safe Family Act: An Overview – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council - 2001
- Understanding “Reasonable Efforts” under State and Federal Law – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council – 2000
- The Automated Case Plan: An Overview of Georgia’s New Program – The Georgia Indigent Defense Council - 2000

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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- Yoga for Students With Severe Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (*in progress*)
- Zoning 101 – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
- In A State of Flux: Finding Your Way Through Zoning and Land Use Issues in Newly Formed Municipalities – State Bar of Georgia Real Property Section Newsletter – 2006
- Legal Aspects Of Condominium, Planned Unit Developments And Mixed-Use Communities – Lorman Educational Services – 2005, 2006
- Taliaferro County Zoning Ordinance – 2004, 2005
- What to Know About the Development of Regional Impact Process – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Permitting and Land-Use Regulations – Lorman Educational Services – 2005
- Municipal Code Violations: Off With Their Heads or a Slap on the Wrist – Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP – 2004
- The Development of Regional Impact Review Process - BOMA magazine – 2003
- Large Scale Developments – Leaders Magazine – 2002
- Quasi-Judicial Proceedings – Institute of Legal Education – 2002
- Understanding the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) Process – Professional Educational Services, Inc. – 2002
- Comparison of Pending Legislation Addressing Pimping and Pandering of Minors – Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – 2001
- Strengthen Georgia’s Child Protective Services’ Capacity to Protect Children From Abuse and Neglect – Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic – 2001
- Road Creation – National Business Institute – 2000
- Agenda Setting and Policy Entrepreneurs: A Case Study of DOMA and ENDA. – Emory University – 1998